

In RE: Qwest Petition for Forbearance of Regulation of xDSL services.

I am part-owner of a wireless broadband Internet service (WISP) in rural Torrence County, NM. Living where we are, there are NO other choices for broadband in this area. My family and I chose to start our WISP in July of 2001 in order that a broadband solution could become available to the common folk in the rural area. We wanted to provide service to those people who could not even get a standard landline in this area due to lack of CO facilities or the obnoxious cost of running telephone to some of the rural locations where there are no cables. For several of our county residents, getting a standard POTS line would cost them in excess of \$17,000 - the "going rate" from Qwest for installation. xDSL is not an option in this area due to lack of facilities and distance from the CO. Qwest has told us on several occasions that xDSL services are not coming to Mountainair or the surrounding area in the foreseeable future. We have been able to bring services to most of our residents by using the license-free spectrum, but we still have to purchase our frame-relay and local loop from Qwest at extraordinarily high rates. If Qwest is allowed forbearance on regulation, there is a potential for abuse especially against my WISP and other Internet providers in the area.

Qwest still has obligations to the State of New Mexico for build-out of services in order that affordable and available telephone and data services be made to all citizens of New Mexico. They have not lived up to their part of the bargain in our state and I don't believe they will live up to their "Spirit of Service" in other states either.

I am strongly opposed to Qwest's petition and urge you to deny it.
Thank you for your time.

--Thomas J. Huntton
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